

BUDGET WEEK

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
Majority Caucus • Jim Nussle, *Chairman*

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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

17 June 2002

Week of 17 June 2002

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) ***Martin's Cove Land Transfer Act*** (H.R. 4103).



This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop certain lands to be used for public education, historic preservation, and enhanced recreational enjoyment of the public. The bill requires the Corporation to pay the United States the historic fair market value of the property conveyed, including any improvements. (The lands sold under H.R. 4103 are listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.) The Bureau of Land Management currently has no plans to sell the lands, which do not generate significant receipts. The sale would increase offsetting receipts by \$200,000 in 2003 and that amount would be fully offset by a corresponding increase in direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – in 2003. The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

2) ***Shoshone National Recreation Trail Management Act*** (H.R. 3936).



This bill designates certain trails in Utah as the Shoshone National Recreation Trail. The trail would be available for recreational opportunities for motorized vehicle use, and for nonmotorized use of the trail to the extent it is compatible with motorized use. The bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue. Any increase in Federal spending to administer the trails would be less than \$500,000 a year, assuming availability of appropriated funds. The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

3) ***Pu'uhoonua o Honaunau National Historical Park Boundary Adjustment Act*** (H.R. 1906).



This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 159 acres and subsequently expand the boundaries of Pu'uhoonua o Honaunau National Historical Park. The one-time cost to purchase and study this area is about \$5 million, of which \$500,000 was appropriated in 2002. Assuming appropriation of the remaining amounts, this area would be purchased in 2003. Enacting H.R. 1906 would not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

4) ***Supporting the goals and ideals of Meningitis Awareness Month*** (H.Con.Res. 340).



This resolution has no budget implications.

5) ***Recognizing National Homeownership Month and the Importance of Homeownership in the United States*** (H.Con.Res. 415).



This resolution has no budget implications.

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to express support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. **Note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the House Committee on the Budget. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

6) ***Sioux Code Talkers Recognition Act*** (H.R. 3250).



This bill authorizes the President to present on behalf of Congress (and where appropriate, posthumously) a Congressional Gold Medal to named Sioux Indians who served as Sioux Code Talkers during World War II in recognition of their service to the Nation. No Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimate was available but the Budget Committee expects that any costs associated with it – for purchase of gold, design, and striking of the medals – are likely to be less than \$100,000 in fiscal year 2003. This cost would be partially offset by sales of duplicates of the medals. The bill is still likely to cause a violation of section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act for causing a breach in the allocation to the Financial Services Committee. Due to the small size of the breach, the Chairman of the Budget Committee will not oppose the measure.

7) ***Social Security Program Protection Act of 2002*** (H.R. 4070).



This bill adds mechanisms to existing law to help collect misused benefits, enhance oversight, and increase penalties for fraud. The bill is designed to protect Social Security beneficiaries against the misappropriation of their payments by representative guardians appointed to manage the beneficiaries' finances when they are unable to do so for themselves. It is expected to raise \$165 million in revenue over the 5-year period. These savings will accrue to the Social Security Trust funds, which are categorized as off budget. There will be no on-budget implications. The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: ***Small Business Paperwork Relief Act*** (H.R. 327).



Committee: Small Business

Summary: This bill requires the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to publish in the Federal Register annually, and make available on the Internet, a list of the regulatory compliance assistance resources available to small businesses. It requires each Federal agency to establish one agency point of contact to act as a liaison with small businesses for the collection of information and the control of paperwork. It also establishes a task force to identify ways to integrate the collection of information across agencies and programs; examine the benefits of publishing a list of the information applicable to small businesses; and recommend a plan for the development of an interactive Governmentwide system regarding the collection of information as it applies to small business. This legislation previously passed in the House and was amended in the Senate.

Cost: This bill does not increase direct spending or decrease revenue.

Budget Act: The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

Bill: ***National Monument Fairness Act of 2002*** (H.R. 2114).






Committee: Resources

Summary: Under current law, the President is authorized to declare landmarks, structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest on Federal lands to be national monuments. H.R. 2114 amends this authority to require the President to obtain public participation and comment, and to consult with Governors and congressional delegations from affected States at least 60 days before designating a monument. H.R. 2114 prohibits the designation of monuments exceeding 50,000 acres for 30 days subsequent to the notification of the Governors of the affected States. Designations of such monuments would require congressional approval within 2 years.

Cost: This bill does not increase direct spending or decrease revenue. Any additional costs are likely to be small and would be paid for by annual appropriations measures.

Budget Act: This bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

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Bill:	<i>National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002</i> (H.R. 3389). 
Committee:	Resources
Summary:	This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$451 million over the 2003-2007 period, to implement the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [NOAA] contract, grant, fellowship, and administrative functions under the sea grant program.
Cost:	The bill does not increase direct spending or decrease revenue. H.R. 3389 authorizes funding for the National Sea Grant College Program through fiscal year 2008. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$294 million over the 2003-2007 period to carry out these activities.
Budget Act:	The legislation does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.
Bill:	<i>Airport Safety, Security and Air Service Improvement Act</i> (H.R. 1979). 
Committee:	Transportation and Infrastructure
Summary:	H.R. 1979 authorizes the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] to provide grants to airport operators to construct and equip control towers. The grants may not be more than \$1.1 million per tower. It is estimated the FAA would provide grants for about 20 control towers over the next 5 years. H.R. 1979 will not increase the total amount of contract authority available for activities funded from the Airport Improvement Program [AIP]. Even though spending from the AIP is mandatory, it is limited by obligation limitations provided for in appropriation acts. The additional towers constructed pursuant to the legislation will then be eligible for the FAA's Contract Tower Program. Under that program, the FAA shares the cost of operating towers with airport operators.
Cost:	This bill does not contain any direct spending and will have no effect on revenue. It would lead to \$47 million in spending over the 2003-2007 period assuming subsequent appropriations acts establish obligation limits at the necessary levels.
Budget Act:	The bill includes language giving the Administrator of the FAA the authority to enter into lease agreements or contract agreements with private entities to provide for construction and operation of certain control towers. This authority is not specifically subject to future appropriations acts and will therefore violate section 401 of the Congressional Budget Act, which prohibits such contract authority.
Bill:	<i>Retirement Savings Security Act of 2002</i> (H.R. 4931). 
Committee:	Ways and Means
Summary:	This bill is intended to make permanent the tax relief related to the retirement provisions included in last year's Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act [EGTRRA] of 2001. That tax bill provided for increased contribution limits and catch-up contributions to individual retirement accounts [IRAs], increased elective deferral limits, and provided a credit for certain elective deferrals and IRA contributions. It also included provisions for increasing portability for plan participants. These provisions were sunset in conference to conform with Senate rules. Specifically, under the Congressional Budget Act, a reconciliation bill in the Senate may not lose revenue after the period provided for in the budget resolution. Last year's budget resolution covered 10 years. Hence, the conference committee on the tax bill was at that time forced to include provisions repealing the various tax cuts at the end of the 10-year period.
Revenue Effect:	Estimates prepared by the Joint Committee on Taxation indicate no revenue effects will occur in the first 5 years.
Budget Act:	Though the bill has outyear implications, no revenue or spending effects will occur in the 5-year period covered by the budget resolution currently in force. Hence, the measure will not violate provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

Prepared by **The House Committee on the Budget**